

# Early-Season Weed Pressure

## Leads to \$50/Acre Loss – Driving a More Proactive, Data-Led Strategy with SeedTrax

Weed Management in Seed Corn

SeedTrax Use Case 2025

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

**\$50/acre impact from early-season weed competition in high-value seed corn production.**

**Wet spring conditions amplified time-management challenges, delaying critical herbicide applications.**

**SeedTrax's Weed Pressure Alert will now be used proactively to prioritize high-risk fields and protect yield potential earlier in the season.**

### BACKGROUND

A **seed corn grower in Indiana** operates multiple seed production facilities and farms several thousand acres, primarily focused on seed corn with some soybean seed production.

Seed production requires extremely high management precision to ensure genetic purity and maximize high-quality seed output. In this particular season, a wet spring created significant operational pressure. Planting was delayed, and saturated field conditions limited timely herbicide applications. The team was focused on getting the crop in the ground, making it difficult to allocate time efficiently across all fields during a narrow management window.

### CHALLENGE

Early in the season, heavy weed pressure developed rapidly across several fields. With planting delays already compressing schedules, the grower faced difficult prioritization decisions:

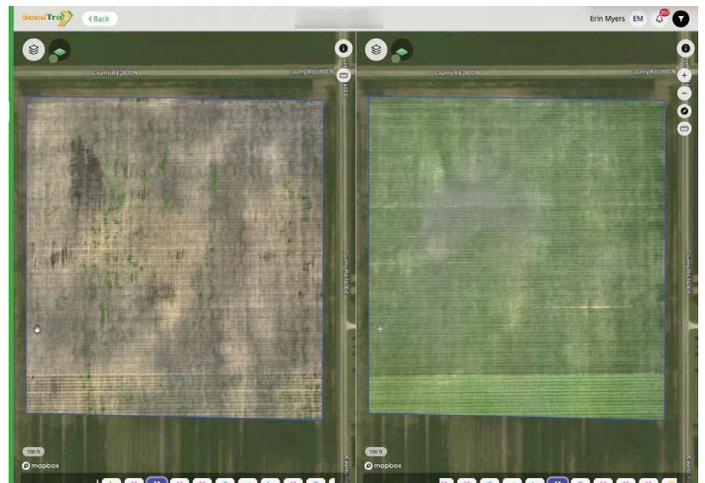
- Which fields required immediate attention?
- Where would delayed spraying create the greatest risk?
- How could limited time and labor be allocated most effectively?

The Weed Pressure Alert in SeedTrax identified priority fields; however, in this case, intervention came too late. One field experienced severe weed competition, with weeds growing tall and dense before the grower could apply herbicide. The result:

- Significant crop stress
- Thin corn stand development
- Delayed plant growth that could not recover

Even after herbicide application, the corn plants were too far behind to compensate for early stress. Weed pressure resurged, further compounding yield loss. Ultimately, the field showed an estimated **\$50 per acre loss** due to unmanaged early-season competition.

In seed production –where uniformity and plant health are critical – early stress can limit field performance.



Heavy weed pressure early June led to a thin canopy



Weed pressure in late August in the same areas. Poor control -> yield impact



Seed production is complex. SeedTrax makes it manageable.

Powered by Intelinair

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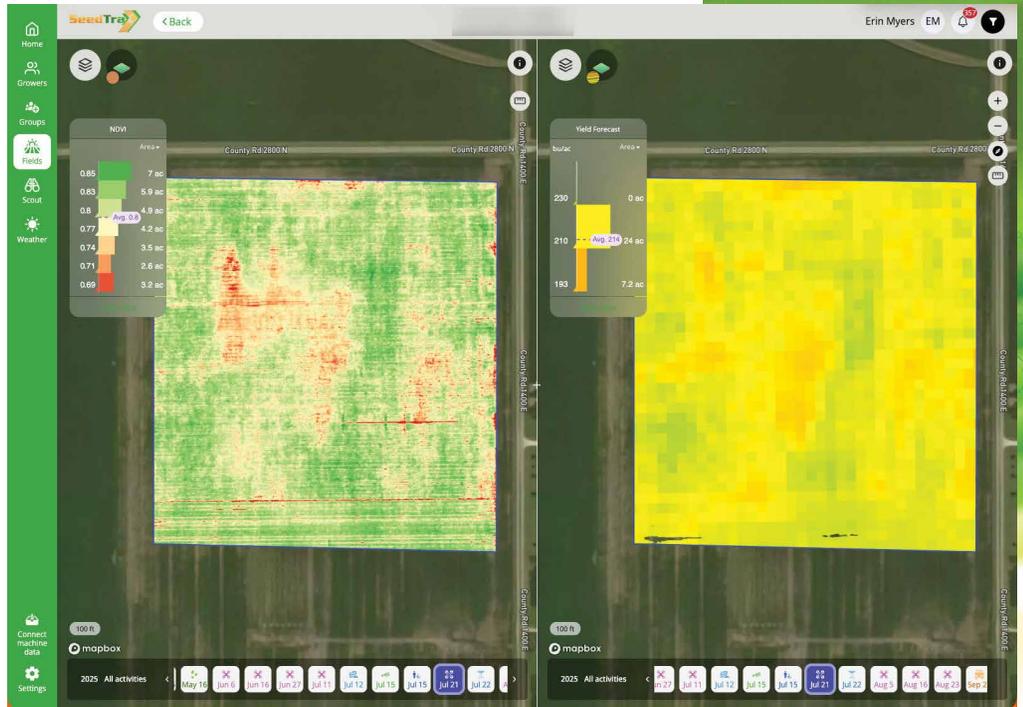
## SOLUTION

Following this experience, the grower refined their early-season management strategy to use SeedTrax more proactively.

Going forward, the team will:

- Closely monitor historical weed pressure “trouble spots” in early spring
- Use the Weed Pressure Alert to prioritize fields before pressure becomes unmanageable
- Develop a targeted scouting and spraying list based on SeedTrax insights
- Allocate labor and equipment more strategically during compressed spring windows

Rather than reacting after visible competition is present, SeedTrax provides the grower an early decision-support tool to direct attention to the highest-risk acres first so he can protect yield potential before stress becomes irreversible.



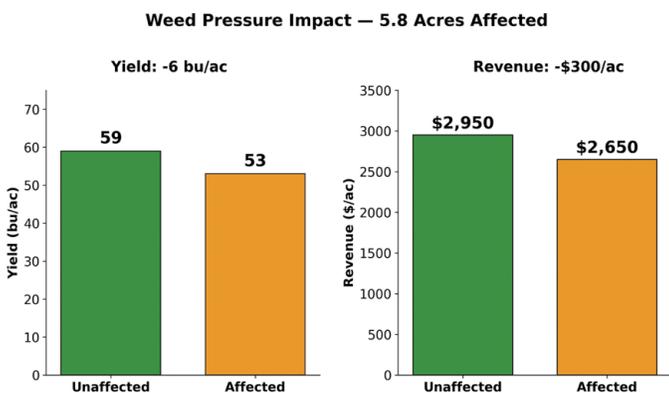
NDVI showing the crop health impact of weed pressure

## RESULTS

Although this specific field experienced a \$50/acre loss, the insight gained is shaping a stronger, more efficient process moving forward.

By leveraging SeedTrax alerts to prioritize fields earlier, the grower expects to:

- Improve early-season responsiveness
- Protect stand health and uniformity
- Reduce yield drag caused by delayed intervention
- Maximize efficiency during high-pressure planting seasons



Field Size: 31.3 acres | Affected: 5.8 ac (18.5%) | Seed Corn @ \$50/bu = \$56/acre

For an operation managing thousands of acres of high-value seed production, better prioritization during critical windows directly translates to improved ROI and operational confidence.

Turn Field Complexity Into Confident Decisions



See SeedTrax in action. Discover how SeedTrax can transform your seed production operations.

Schedule a Demo Contact Us to Learn More

Seed corn yield weight map showing impacted acres

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